INTERPLAN

APA American Planning Association
International Division

Winter 2012-13

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Banner photo by Sylvester Wong at Wadi Bani Khalid, Oman 2012

New Leadership and Networking Opportunities
by Laura Buhl in Detroit

Welcome to the first issue of Interplan since the International Division's new leadership team took office at the APA National Conference in Los Angeles this past spring. We have been working to introduce new activities and programs, re-establish programs that have been discontinued, and continue successful initiatives like the World Town Planning Day Online Conference.

When I first became a member of the Division while I was in graduate school, I found that if one didn't go to the National Conference, it was very difficult to get to know other Division members and to benefit from our international community of planning professionals. Over the years, as technology has advanced and tools like Skype and web conferencing have allowed diffuse groups to communicate more inexpensively, it has been easier to get involved in Division projects and to have a chance to work with, and get to know, other Division members. Yet, the National Conference in L.A. was the first time I actually met any Division members face-to-face. We heard from many members that forming connections with other planners from around the world is important to them. Although technology provides us many benefits, there is no replacement for the conversations that occur during informal networking events. To help meet this need, the leadership team has committed to holding a series of Regional Networking events throughout the year so Division members may get together in small groups to discuss international planning issues and to get to know each other in an informal setting. This past summer there was a get together in San Francisco and, this fall, another in Washington, D.C. Please stay on the lookout for more events throughout the year- we might be coming to your city!

On the topic of networking and technology, the Division oversaw a successful completion of the fourth annual World Town Planning Day Online Conference in early November. This year's theme was "Smart Communities Connect." We had over a hundred participants from five continents present, moderate, listen, ask and answer questions, and chat over the course of the two-day conference. Attendees heard about how new technologies are affecting citizen participation, about the importance of technological infrastructure to planning, and the impact of mobile technology on rural economic development, among many other topics.

Although I've just extolled the benefits of face-to-face networking, the WTPD Online Conference provides a tremendous opportunity in a virtual format to listen to and ask questions of professionals from around the world. Our Division's role on the conference organizing committee also gives the Division and our members a chance to develop connections with other professional planning organizations from around the world- all virtually. These connections have begun to yield results- such as allowing us to aid members in making professional connections abroad.
I would like to close by urging every member who has an idea about how to improve the Division to contact me and, if you have time, to get involved.

Warmest regards,
Laura Buhl

Laura Buhl is a City Planner with the City of Detroit Planning Commission. She was elected Chair of the American Planning Association International Division last Spring.

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Social Media Volunteers

The International Division has set up a number of small social media accounts (on twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Pinterest) to reach out and connect with our members. However, we need champions to push out current and relevant content that would be of interest to our membership. Anyone interested in moderating and championing one or more of these vehicles for the first few months should contact Sylvester Wong, Vice Chair of Communications for APA ID, at at sylvester_wong@ gensler.com. ↙

CHICAGO

Save the Dates!

APA is gearing up for the 2013 National Conference in Chicago. Here's the latest on important dates:
- Online registration December 2012
- Early-registration ends on February 14, 2013
- Student volunteer registration ends on February 14, 2013
- Advance-registration ends March 14, 2013
- Conference takes place April 13-17, 2013

Attend Our Sessions!

The International Division is planning an exciting slate of events for Chicago 2013! They include: a session on airport and aerospace development in Abu Dhabi, a mobile workshop on the international activities of the YMCA, a facilitated discussion with planning professionals working in China, the International Division dinner, and a networking happy hour to connect planners interested in working internationally with potential employers and other planners with international experience. Stay tuned on e-News and Interact for updates!↙

Bryan Schmid, Planning Grad

Bryan Schmid is a graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago. He intends to become a well-rounded planner and improve the communities in which he lives and works. Bryan is working as a curator at a museum in Rock Island, Illinois (which is being restored after sitting vacant for 20 years) while searching for full-time employment in the Quad Cities of Illinois and Iowa.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in Geography and German from Augustana College in Rock Island, he studied abroad and interned in Regensburg, Germany. During his internship with the City's development department, Bryan helped translate and edit the "Regensburg Plan 2005" and other promotional material from German to English to capture international interest in the city's newly declared status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and improve its reputation as a growing technological center.

After returning home, he interned with the Community and Economic Development Department in Rock Island and conducted research for the Historic Preservation Commission, processed property tax rebates and CDBG applications, and documented houses that were applying for rehabilitation programs. Concurrently, he worked with City and college officials, fellow students and a farmer to develop a plan for a community garden called Augie Acres. To facilitate the process and ensure success, he took a lease out on City-owned property. Since then, the garden has continued to produce food for the college dining halls.

During graduate school, his internships included the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association and the city of Leipzig, Germany. His master's project inventoried affordable and transitional housing in the Quad Cities.

In his free time, Bryan brews beer and hard apple cider, volunteers at the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa, and is a board member of his neighborhood association. Contact him at: bryanrschmid@gmail.com. ↙

PROJECT GALLERY ↙
by Akshali Gandhi in Ankara

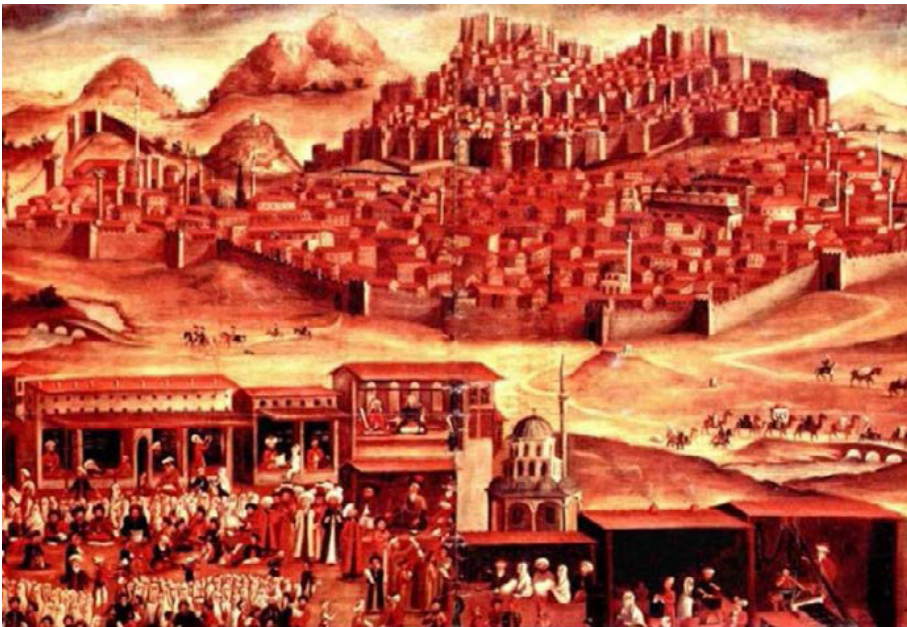# ID Grant Helps Student Examine the Restoration of Ulus, Ankara, Turkey's Oldest District

Ankara has never been known for its tourism. Most visitors do not frequent Ankara for more than a day or two. However, the old city of Ulus has high historical and archeological significance. In a quest to rejuvenate this decaying area into the bustling marketplace it once used to be, the Ankara Municipality has claimed that restoring Ulus will remind tourists and residents of the historic value of the area and bring back the marketplace culture of the Ottoman days. Thus, in 2009, with funding from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ankara Municipality began a four-year restoration project, based off the results of a 1987 design competition for the preservation of the Ankara Citadel. The project, however, is controversial and has been challenged in court several times over the last decade.
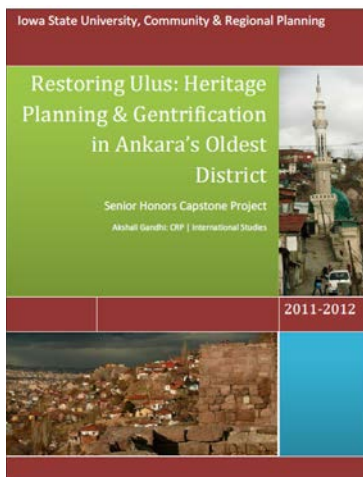
In the report "Restoring Ulus: Heritage Planning & Gentrification in Ankara's Oldest District" I examine the mass restoration project in three distinct regions of the city of Ulus: the Haci Bayram Mosque, the Hizar-Kale (Citadel) and a neighboring hillside. Through the use of literature reviews, photographs, personal interviews, and plan analysis, I attempt to raise awareness of the repercussions of heritage-based tourism planning in a culture outside the United States. In the report I argue that, with megacities around the world quickly urbanizing and rapidly growing, city governments must not only consider the question of how to plan, but for whom they are planning and for what purpose. Transparency and social justice are two of the main themes of the report. In the report I explain that half a century ago, Ankara used to be a primarily rural, small town in Central Anatolia – a mere dot on the map of the vast Ottoman Empire. With the formation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, however, Ankara was chosen as the capital city and seat of government due to its strategic location in the middle of the country and for its historic significance in the resistance movement for Turkey's independence.

As a result of state-led planning and modernization efforts after World War II, Ankara quickly transformed into a Western-style, centrally planned capital, attracting thousands of bureaucrats, elected officials, and commerce. Today, with a population of nearly 4.5 million, Ankara is becoming the most quickly urbanizing and second-most populous city in the country, although Istanbul is still the largest city in Turkey.

The heart of Ankara is in Ulus, in what some people still refer to as the "Eskişehir" (Old City) district. This area used to be the main central business district, but a new area of the city ("Yenişehir") known as the Kizilay district now functions as the newer downtown for professionals and young people. As a result, Ankara emerged as a capital city with two downtowns: Ulus and Kizilay.

As is a common occurrence around the world, many middle-class and high income families soon began to abandon Ulus for the newer Kizilay district. This forced poor migrants, concentrated in the decaying inner city, to either subdivide land or build in its fringes. However, the bowl-shaped, arid city, which was originally planned for only 500,000 residents, was not well equipped to accommodate a growing population. The lack of affordable housing has led to a widespread squatting phenomenon, where poorer migrants usually come and occupy space on the fringes of Ulus without governmental consent.

The Ankara Citadel and Ulus area as depicted by Flemish Painter Jean Baptist van Mour in the 18th century. Source: Jean Baptist van Mour. Rijksmuseum.

4 In Turkey, squatter housing and slum building are labeled under the category of "gecekondu," which literally means "built overnight" in Turkish. More than two-thirds of Ankara's residents are now estimated to be living in gecekondu settlements. Despite attempts at national legislation, such as the Gecekondu Law of 1966, most policymaking has been ineffective in the relocation or prevention of slum areas due to loopholes that legalize existing squatting and weaken enforcement of new squatting. For example, the government cannot clear a squatter home without just compensation, a technicality that has actually encouraged the practice of building overnight beyond the watch of security guards. Also, improving slum areas is often so expensive and impractical that old squatter "mahallar" (neighborhoods) have gained semi-legal status over the years.

The main squatter housing area in Ulus happens to have significant historical and archeological value. It is where the Greater Ankara Municipality, with funding from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, is implementing the "Ulus Historic Center City Restoration Plan," a vast restoration project to preserve some Ottoman architecture and the religious institutions of the area. In the process, many squatters will be cleared in the next few years.

The project was set to be completed in three stages. The first stage, completed in the winter of 2012, was the rehabilitation of the Haci Bayram Mosque and Mausoleum. According to a local magazine, the area had 77 houses and 76 neighboring shops. In order to calm traffic and remove eyesores, electric light poles were removed, streets were reorganized, a 30-foot iron bell tower was removed, landscaping was added, a public square created, and some housing was either destroyed or reconstructed with new façade improvements depicting Ottoman-style design. The façade of the mosque itself was also renovated for future protection of the structure. The second and third phases, to be completed in the next two years, are the revitalization of the Ankara Kale and Hizar (Ankara Citadel/Castle) and the hillside opposite it.
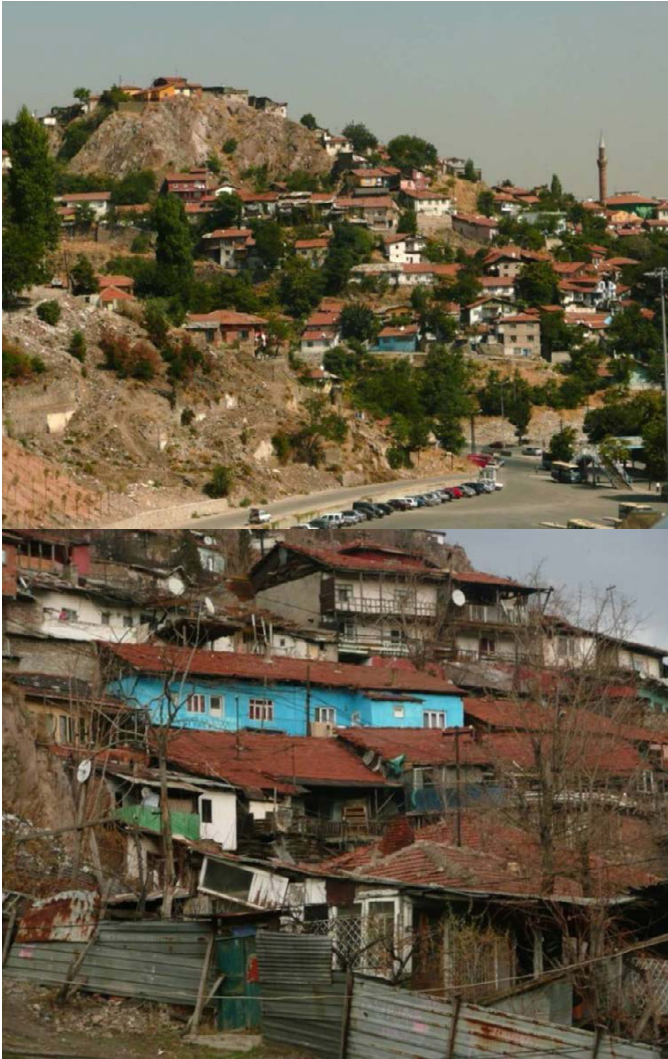
Although the aim of heritage planning is to restore a sense of place through historic preservation, when examined from only one tourism-oriented mindset, it can actually increase the homogenization of the urban landscape. In response to placelessness, the tourist-historic approach to urban transformation essentially standardizes the built

A view of Kizilay, the new downtown, from Guven Park and the historic hillsides of Ulus to the north. Source: Kacar, D. (2010). "Ankara, a Small Town, Transformed to a Nation's Capital." Journal of the American Planning Association, 9(1), 43-65.

A map depicting the variety of squatter housing in the Ankara metropolitan area, most of which is concentrated in the inner city. Source: Dundar, O (2001): "Models of Urban Transformation: Informal Housing in Ankara" Cities. Vol. 18(6), 391–401.

environment all over again, upgrading the image of the city from, for example, a concrete jungle to a quieter, more "authentic" or "quaint" experience aimed to grab a hold of the "tourist gaze." Even though places hold complex patterns of memory, history, and user experience, often times, heritage planning capitalizes on only the preferred memories or images of a place. Rather than preserving history, sometimes tourist-historic oriented development creates an entirely new image or themed idea of the history of the site in order to cater to the standard tourist.

At the time of research, construction on the hillsides between the Haci Bayram Mosque and the Ankara Citadel was already underway. A number of shops, offices, and new residences were being created in replacement of squatter settlements across from the Citadel. New plans for additional museum and retail spaces are also underway for the exit side of the Citadel. Public participation in the project has been limited, although news is spread through the local government periodicals. According to a staff member from the Ankara Municipality and a heritage planning professor at Middle East Technical University, no official report or documentation is available from government officials for public access; currently plans remain dismantled in various government and private architectural offices. Security at construction sites was strictly enforced: special permission had to be taken to photograph this development.

According to interviews taken throughout the study, it appears that expropriated or spoliated land was taken by the municipality to be given to companies and entrepreneurs in hopes new business will raise the commercial value of the Ulus area. Although some residents were legally officially offered compensation for displacement, not everyone benefitted from this compensation. According to a government official found on-site, at least 30% of the residents living in the restoration zone do not have the legal right to do so. Because many were low-income squatters who did not own the land, they could not legally be given just compensation and were forced to move away. ∠

Some of the oldest housing in Ankara is in informal settlements on the hillside facing the Ankara Citadel. These squatter houses, known locally as gecekondular, are usually made from wood, brick and scrap tin reinforced by wooden poles. Despite their historic significance, there have been no investment or improvement projects preventing their continued decay. Source: Author.

A portion of the Kizilay business district, dotted with high-rises and uniform-looking shopping centers, and showing signs of a car-oriented society. Source: Author.

New residences and shops being constructed in the Fall of 2011. Source: Author.

Akshali Gandhi was a student at Iowa State University, Department of Community & Regional Planning. The Senior Honors Capstone Project "Restoring Ulus: Heritage Planning & Gentrification in Ankara's Oldest District" was completed during a semester study abroad at the City and Regional Planning Department of the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, with the support of a grant from the APA International Division. The report is a preliminary research project and provides only a small glimpse into a very complicated and political restoration project. It was only meant to be a basic undergraduate attempt to examine the repercussions of heritage-based tourism planning in a culture outside the United States and should not be considered a full study by any means. To read the full report, please go to: https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B39U_PzIvxDmakdGOTF4bFFMem8

The Ecocity Framework

↘ **PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**
by Kirsten Miller in Oakland

Cities are urban ecosystems. Like natural ecosystems, they bring in energy, materials, and information, processing them through their components as they flow through the system. Urban ecosystems include concentrations of people and the built environment as well as the productive ecosystems generating the energy and matter required to sustain the whole. Only if the urban system is ecologically complete and healthy does it have a chance of becoming self-reliant and sustainable.

The global problems we're facing today require the city, town and village to be redesigned around the measure, needs, and potential of the human being and based upon ecological principles. Specifically it calls for urban diversity at close proximity, instead of scattered uniformity. It calls for land uses, architecture, and a steadily and rapidly growing infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit, powered by renewable energy sources and balanced with preservation and restoration of natural and agricultural lands and waters.

Towards this goal, the Ecocity Framework initiative launched in February 2010, and is currently under development by United Nations-accredited nonprofit Ecocity Builders and an international committee of expert advisors. Founded in 1992, Ecocity Builders, headquartered in Oakland, California, is dedicated to reshaping cities for the long-term health of human and natural systems.

Designed for a wide range of users, the Ecocity Framework charts a city's steps forward — from existing conditions to "threshold" Ecocity status and beyond. It helps people see how their city is doing on a range of important measures, charted from "unhealthy" through multiple levels of "greener city," "Ecocity," and the whole earth level, "Gaia."

The Framework prioritizes urban design principles, the bio-geo-physical conditions of a healthy urban system (clean air, clean and renewable energy, nutritious and available food, responsibly managed resources and materials, healthy soil, and clean and available water), ecological imperatives (healthy biodiversity, carrying capacity, and ecological integrity) and socio-cultural dimensions for a healthy population (healthy culture, community capacity, lifelong education, healthy and sustainable economy and well-being). Since all measures are important, a city will only reach Ecocity status when it achieves an "Ecocity" or higher designation in all categories.

Informed and guided by the Framework, cities and citizens can move toward greater urban ecosystem health and sustainability by working at various levels from neighborhood to region — developing ecocity zoning and redevelopment plans to reshape cities towards greater energy and land efficient mixed-use centers, designing neighborhoods for improved form and function, creating specific action plans, or grappling with city, regional or country-wide programs that address broader policy and structural (i.e. educational, economic) impediments to creating ecocities.

A core committee is steering the development of the Framework based on input from a group of international advisers. We expect it will be applicable for a wide range of users, including local government and regional agencies, larger organizations such as the United Nations, and entities in charge of development strategies including transportation, land use, housing, watershed management, agriculture, resource management, and other regional development goals.

Next steps include the further development and refinement of the beta version of the standards, further development of the step-wise process of engagement, and testing the process in a variety of cities through an Early Partner Cities program.

The initiative will be featured at the upcoming Ecocity World Summit in Nantes, France, September 25-27 2013, alongside a variety of complementary ecocity and citizen initiatives, projects, policies, and plans. We cordially invite you to join with us and take part in what we think will be a transformative event. ↙
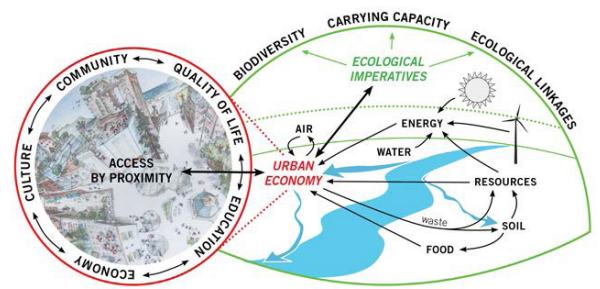
Cities and ecosystems are systemically interrelated. The health of the city's hinterland affects local biodiversity, ecological integrity and the Earth's carrying capacity. Source: http://www.ecocitystandards.org/ecocity/systems-urban-ecology/ (Reprinted with permission).

A draft of the International Ecocity Framework. Source: http://www.ecocitybuilders.org/iefs-framework/ (Reprinted with permission).

For more information contact Kirstin Miller, Executive Director of Ecocity Builders. kirstin@ecocitybuilders.org, www.ecocitybuilders.org, www.ecocitystandards.org

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan: Working with the Military as a Civilian Contractor

In March 2010, the economic crash of 2008 finally caught up with me. I was laid off from my consulting job in Massachusetts, and the uncertainty associated with being unemployed soon gave me many restless nights. While most planning jobs are not found on Monster.com, I figured that it couldn't hurt to put myself out there.

Amidst the offers for interviews with insurance and financial advising companies, I received an email from a recruiter for a defense contractor that had a position for a master planner in Afghanistan. Was I crazy to even entertain the thought of accepting the job?! Yes! But it would also be an opportunity to experience a part of the world I had never seen, to work in a truly unique environment and fly around in Blackhawks. I comforted myself with the thought that thousands of our soldiers had gone and come back.

Under the jet of an F-15. Source: Author. (2010).

The next three weeks were a whirlwind. I told my family of my decision to accept the job and I got all of my affairs in order. I flew down to Florida for a week-long training session in which I was filled in on proper timesheet procedures, taught the difference between a mortar and a rocket-propelled grenade, and fitted for a gas mask. At the end of the week, I boarded a plane to Doha, Qatar.

My fellow trainees and I were picked up by a few of our company's employees, who were on a contract at Al Udeid Air Base. We were offered a hot meal, a bed for the night, and a phone call home. Then they took us to a large warehouse stacked with rows of boxes to pick up the items that would be our companions for the next 14 months: body armor and a helmet (aka IBA and Kevlar). After that, we signed up on the Space A list (meaning space available, or standby) for the first flight to Bagram. I boarded a C-17 the morning of April 11, 2010, and five hours later the plane landed at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

I had no idea what to expect as we got off the plane. From watching so many war movies as a kid, I thought we'd be running for cover, but we were just ushered off the runway to the PAX (passenger) terminal, and had our CAC (ID) cards collected and registered. A short time later, one of my new coworkers came to pick us up.

Our tour of the base was a whirlwind…here's the PX, here are the DFACs (dining facilities), here's your room. I was assigned a 6x8 feet room in a B-Hut, an 18x36 feet plywood shack. I was completely disoriented in the maze of B-Huts, lined up in straight rows with gravel roads separating blocks. It all looked the same and I couldn't remember how to get back to the main road.

Within a few weeks, I had established my routine at Bagram. We worked from 7am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday. Lunch time was from noon to 2pm. Civilians, who were not allowed in the DFAC for the first hour of lunch, stood in a line that stretched for about 100 feet from the entrance to the DFAC. At 3:30 every afternoon after I received a small hot pot for my birthday, I had "tea time" in the office with my coworkers. By late October, on my days off, I'd find myself going to see what was new at a bazaar that had opened on base, saying hello to the merchants, who eventually got to know me.

8   I soon realized a few things about my new life: When you live and work on base, you have no real escape from your job. Your coworkers are also your friends and support group. We did everything together – ate meals, talked about life back home, went to the gym, ran errands. I was lucky enough to live in a building separate from my coworkers, but most of the men didn't have it so easy. Tensions that arose in the living quarters were carried over to the office. Packages and letters from friends and family back home and weekly Skype sessions were invaluable for me to keep some level of sanity, especially when I was putting in full work days on holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I don't live my life without fear, but while living in Afghanistan, I had to put that fear into perspective. I won't downplay the fact that I was in danger, but I'm not going to pretend that I was in the same kind of danger as the guys going out in convoys to diffuse bombs or those who live in the most remote areas of the mountains, eating MREs and fighting the Taliban on a regular basis. I was at Bagram, the big city, and I didn't wake up every day worrying about whether we were going to take an attack. Sometimes I heard the "BOOM," like a door slamming shut 10 feet away, and it rattled my senses. Mortars came onto base at most a few times a week and very rarely hit any real targets. Our attitude was usually, "no need to worry, it was just a rocket."

Working in a contingency environment posed some very unique challenges. The pace is frenetic and mission requirements change weekly. I was asked to develop site designs for a base scheduled to house 3,000 people, upgrade it for 5,000 people, and then downgrade it for 1,500 people without warning.

The filter and flow of information were very different as well. The people living on base usually had higher expectations for the mission and expansion of facilities than the direction from regional command, so the number of people on each base varied dramatically depending on who I asked. Topographic data and accurate boundary lines were rarely available initially and we would have to send our own surveyors out to get the points.

Finally, because Army rotations lasted one year and Air Force deployments lasted six months, the process of building relationships and garnering support for recommendations had to be restarted with every rotation. Like most ambitious leaders, the Army leadership wanted to leave their mark. They brought fresh ideas and saw no reason to follow existing plans. The Air Force leaders also quickly established that they would do a better job than the guys before them and set about changing procedures or policies towards this end. This came in the form of either moving our offices around, renaming and reorganizing network drives, or tasking us with new projects based on new priorities.

Mountains beyond Bagram Airfield. Source: Author (2010).

B-Huts with Decking. Source: Author. (2010).

Presenting to the USACE Commander. Source: Author. (2010).

Learning military culture was the biggest adjustment for me. Military structure is very much based on hierarchy, even as it pertains to civilians. All decisions and approvals went up and down the chain of command. Issues arose when upper management was not correctly briefed on what was really happening at our level, or when internal issues arose amongst planners or between planners and military personnel, and no one in the mid-level leadership cared to resolve it.

I also dealt with people who believed that I possessed neither the skill or the aptitude to plan military bases in a contingency environment, whether because I was a woman, a civilian, or both. I often perceived that the general sentiment towards civilians is one of utter resentment. It's as if we had no other intention but to milk the government dry and the only ones doing good work were those in uniform. The unequal treatment given to civilians extended to our use of the hospitals and clinics on base. We were limited to use it in cases of "life, limb or eye" and there were no civilian medical facilities with doctors or pharmacies where we could receive basic treatment. Even though Bagram and the FOBs had walk-in clinics for military personnel, we had to self-medicate or fly to Doha or Qatar to see a private doctor. I was always surprised that favoritism and inefficiency were allowed to happen in a place where there's no time for it.

Fortunately, the military members I met who treated me like a human being vastly outnumbered the ones who scoffed at my presence. And, where I could work with others in a professional capacity, the outcome was great. Many of the Army commanders I met with and presented to were very receptive to the ideas I laid out and were appreciative to have someone with planning skills help them visualize how their bases could function safely, efficiently, and with the least amount of disruption. This included siting living quarters away from a proposed power plant and a solid waste incinerator. I showed them how they could improve traffic circulation and advised them to keep any facilities out of the wadis, or dry river beds, which were the drainage courses that moved hundreds of cubic feet of water during the spring rains. For them, it was one less issue that they had to worry about and they could get back to their main job, which was executing the mission for their region.

For more information about the current state of urban development in Afghanistan, please see a report from the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit entitled "Governance and Representation in the Afghan Urban Transition". The report is available here: http://www.areu.org.af/UpdateDownloadHits.aspx?EditionId=557&Pdf=1121EGovernance%20and%20Representation%20in%20the%20Afghan%20Urban%20Transition%20WP.pdf. It explores the effect that thirty years of war and the legacy of communism have had on planning systems in Afghanistan.
To go right to the primary source, check out the English language website of the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs of Afghanistan here: http://muda.gov.af/en/.

Time and distance have given me the ability to reflect back on my 14 months in Afghanistan and understand the mark it has left on my life. The places you read about in the news are places that I've seen with my own eyes, experiences that I've internalized, and people who brought these places to life. I think about it almost every day, even now that I've returned to my normal life and civilian planning. And whenever I'm asked about some of my most interesting projects, the response usually starts with, "When I was in Afghanistan…" ⤹

Erika Johnson, AICP is an urban planner currently living and working in Boston, MA. She was a civilian contractor in Eastern Afghanistan between April 2010 and June 2011

Hope is Renewed for the Valsequillo Region in Puebla, MX

↘ **WINDOW TO THE WORLD**
by Ana Hernandez-Balzac in Puebla

The Valsequillo Reservoir in the state of Puebla, Mexico fills with thousands of aquatic birds each winter. This amazing observation, made in 2010, challenged the generalized perception that the reservoir was a dead zone and gave a new impetus for a long-term planning effort that sought to deter massive urbanization of the area in favor of a more sustainable and socially just model. With a new argument for conservation, the federal and state governments obtained a Ramsar Site designation for Valsequillo in February 2012. This gave it international recognition for its ecological and cultural values. In April 2012, the Valsequillo Wetland was declared a state-level natural protected area, providing a land use management framework that preserves farmland, allows residents to remain in their ancestral lands, and encourages habitat conservation and rehabilitation. This planning process, which was supported by Peace Corps Volunteers, won the APA 2013 Pierre L'Enfant International Planning Award. ↙

Photo taken by Jajean Rose-Burney at Los Angeles Tetela, Puebla, Puebla on October 2011.